REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed March 3, 2003, and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Moreover, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qiao in view of Tai and Suzuki. By the above amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and new claim 7 has been added. No new matter has been added, and Applicants' carefully considered those Section 112, first paragraph rejections during the preparation of new claim 7. With respect to claim 7, these references have been carefully reviewed but are not believed to show or suggest Applicants' invention as now claimed in any manner. Examination and allowance of claim 7 is therefore respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

New claim 7 requires a diffusion and reflection plate disposed to oppose the rear side surface of the light guide wherein a gap is created between the diffusion and reflection plate and the rear side surface of the light guide so that the brightness of discharged light from the diffusion and reflection plate is reduced by the gap, and the light having the reduced brightness enters the guide light from the rear side surface. Neither Qiao, Tai, nor Suzuki, taken individually or in combination, teaches or suggests this limitation.

For purposes of illustration and clarity, Applicants provide the following Figure A. As best seen in Figure A, the light having the low brightness from the diffusion and reflection plate 5 compensates a low brightness portion A in the light guide 1. Thus, the brightness of the light guide becomes uniform. The equalization of the brightness can be performed by properly selecting the width of the gap.

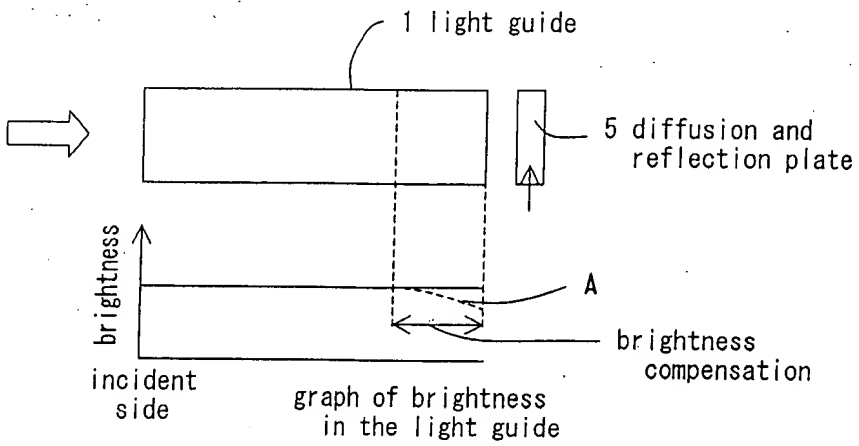

Fig. A

To the contrary, in the device of Suzuki, the film 7 is provided for preventing the loss of the light. The film may be generally formed of film resulting from forming a thin film on the surface of the metal. Instead of the film 7, a metal plate a surface of which is mirror-polished may be used (see col. 8, lines 12-23). The mirror polished metal plate does not diffuse, but normally reflects the incident light. Moreover, since the film 7 contacts with the substrate 2, which is shown in the following Figure B provided for purposes of illustration and clarity, the brightness of the incident light in the substrate is too high to compensate the low brightness of the light in th substrate.

Consequently, the brightness of the light in the substrate becomes extremely high and the display cannot be uniformly illuminated, and the brightness of the light cannot be adjusted.

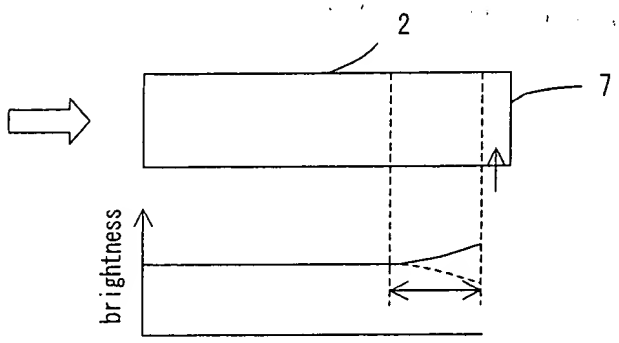

Fig. B

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In view of the above limitations and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is patentable over the prior art combination.

Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed March 3, 2003, has been addressed and it is believed that claim 7 is now in condition for allowance. Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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